

TOW LAW TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of **Tow Law Town Council** held on Tuesday **18th May 2010** in the Community Centre commencing at **6.33pm**

Present: Councillors J. Day (Chairman), T. Batson, A. Blacker, L. Brown, J. Gale, A. Green, R. Grogan, C Hayton, L. Rowland, G. Stevens and L. Taylor

Also Present: County Councillors J. Bailey and P Jopling and Sgt Dave Lyall (Durham Police), R. Plews (Resident) and G F Smith (Clerk)

Apologies: Councillor P. Graham

AGM 01/10 Election of Chair

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor P. Graham be elected as Chairman for 2010/11.
Councillor J. Day in the Chair

AGM 02/10 Declaration of Interest

Councillors Gale and Hayton Declared an Interest in Agenda Item No. 18 – Millennium Green
Councillor Rowland Declared an Interest in Agenda Item No. 19c – Planning Matters.

AGM 03/10 Police Report

SGT Lyall presented the report to the meeting followed by a question and answer session
Mr R Plews left the meeting.

AGM 04/10 Election of Vice Chairman

Councillor Day and Green were proposed and seconded as Vice-Chairman. An election took place (County Councillor Bailey acted as inviolator) by a paper ballot. The result of the voting was Councillor Day 4 votes, Councillor Green 7 votes. Councillor Green was therefore elected as Vice Chairman for 2010/11.

Councillor Green in the Chair

AGM 05/10 Representation by Residents

None present.

AGM 06/10 Minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2010

Minutes agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman

AGM 07/10 Matters Arising

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County Councillor Report (053/10)

Meeting with Keith Jameson

The Clerk reported that he had misread the e-mail sent by Mr Jameson and had spoken to him and had agreed to meet in Tow Law after this meeting, date to be agreed with the Chairman. The Clerk also thanked County Councillor Jopling for her assistance in this matter. Clerk to report the outcome of the meeting with Mr Jameson to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Maintenance/keeping tidy of picnic areas around Tow Law.

The areas would be included in the grot spot campaign being organised by The Three Towns AAP.

Signed by the Chairman.....Page 1

Matters Arising (056/10)**Road Traffic concerns at Campbell/Station Streets**

Meeting to be arranged with Mr Jameson (DCC)

Power of Well Being Training held 28th April 2010

Three Councillors (J. Day, R. Grogan and C. Hayton) attended the training session.

Purchase of Laptops and Projection Equipment

The Clerk was setting up a Business Account with the supplier of the goods and will report progress to the next Town Council meeting.

Page 2**Matters Arising (056/10 continued)****Allotment Site Rear of Dan's Castle**

Clerk to chase up the Contractor who is going to carry out this work. Clerk to report to the next Town Council meeting.

Winter Maintenance (057/10)**Response to DCC**

The Clerk had responded to the County Council with the Town Council's concerns. No response had been received, but the Clerk understands there are a number of Scrutiny Committee meeting arranged to discuss this matter.

Councillor Batson updated Members on a meeting he had attended on this matter.

Grot Spots/Areas in need of a clean up campaign

Awaiting response from DCC regarding the matter raised on Budgets/Council Taxation/work previously carried out by Wear Valley District Council. Councillor Gale again raised his concerns on this matter. Clerk to report any progress to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

Page 3**Tow Law Town Plan (061/10)**

The work was almost complete, only the notice boards to be designed and installed. Councillor Gale reported on a meeting with the Banks Development Company regarding Funding towards the Car Parking costs (£10,000). It was agreed for the Chairman, Clerk and Councillor Gale to meet and arrange to complete the application form and for Councillor Gale to meet with representatives from Banks Developments. Councillor Gale also reported that Banks Developments would be moving their offices from Tow Law to Meadowfield. County Councillors Bailey and Jopling would also be prepared to allocate funding to this project.

Chairman's Report (064/10)

Joint meeting with Greater Willington Town Council

The Clerk reported that the joint meeting took place on Tuesday 4th May 2010.

Councillor **Rowland** raised concerns at the lack of applications for AAP Funding for the Tow Law area compared to the number being proposed for Willington.

Councillor **Green** informed the meeting of a project she was working on for "Doggie Bins" for Tow Law.

Councillor **Stevens** proposed three further Projects:-

- i) Footpath access for pedestrians
- ii) Footpath Link from Tow Law to the Beehive Coke Ovens
- iii) Link to the Coast to coast cycle route

Members agreed to support the above suggestions and that they should be forwarded to the AAP for consideration as soon as possible.

Page 4**Clerk's Report (065/10)**

g) DCC – Playbuilder Programme 2010/11

No further update from the County Council. Councillors Bailey and Jopling had no information from the cabinet meeting of the County Council.

Members Report (066/10)**Fires on the Industrial Estate**

Letters have been sent to the County Council and the Fire Service, awaiting responses. Clerk to update at the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

AGM 08/10 County Councillors Report**County Councillor Bailey Reported:-**

- A) Pact meeting 27th May (Both County Councillors will be attending)
- B) Donation to Tow Law Football Club for Security Systems (£2000 each) The Clerk & Assistant Clerk are working with the football Club to obtain other funding.
- C) Funding for Youth activities in Tow Law
- D) New Chairman of DCC is Mac Williams
- E) New Vice Chairman of DCC is Dennis Morgan

AGM 09/10 Cheque Signatories

Agreed that two Councillors will be cheque signatories for the Co-operative Bank PLC.

AGM 10/10 Committee Membership

It was **agreed** to re-appoint the Membership of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Allotment Committee.

AGM 11/10 Representatives to Outside Bodies

It was **agreed** to re-appoint Councillors Brown and Gale onto the Management Committee of the Tow Law Community Association.

AGM 12/10 Unaudited Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2010

Members **agreed** to accept the Statement and publish the accounts in the Annual Report for 2009/10.

AGM 13/10 Standing Orders

The National Association of Local Councils has issued a new Model Standing Orders for use by Towns Councils. The document is 38 pages and requires some minor alterations and additions to make it unique to Tow Law Town Council.

Members agreed to:-

- A) Adopt the new Model Standing Orders, subject to minor alterations and additions
- B) Receive a copy of the proposed document before the next Town Council meeting.
- C) Discuss the document at the next Town Council meeting (June)

AGM 14/10 Financial Regulations

There were **no amendments** to the present document. Members therefore agreed the Financial Regulations.

AGM 15/10 Power of Well Being

To use the Power of Well Being (The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 section 77) The Town Council must fulfil the following conditions (Parish Councils (Power to promote Well Being) (Prescribed conditions) order 2008 (the prescribed condition Order):-

- A) Minimum of two thirds of vacancies to be filled at the last Ordinary Election
- B) Qualified Clerk trained in the Power
- C) Minimum of 80% of Councillors trained in the Power
- D) Published Statement of Community Engagement

As the Town Council meets all of the above criteria they wish to use the Power of Well Being from the date of this meeting. The Power will be used to improve the Economic, social and environmental, well being of the area and will also have regard to the Durham County Council's Sustainable Community Strategy for County Durham (2010 – 2030) and relevant government guidance.

The period of eligibility will last until the day before the next Annual meeting held in the year of Ordinary Elections (2013).

Members also **agreed** to arrange for some publicity to advertise what the Town Council have achieved.

AGM 16/10 Millennium Green

Members agreed to formally transfer the area from the present Trustees to the Town Council acting as Corporate Trustees.

Clerk to make the necessary arrangements and report progress to the next appropriate Town Council meeting.

AGM 17/10 Planning Matters

A) Application **3/2010/0186** – Applicant Bond's Foundry Co Ltd for an extraction system to the side of a Industrial Building at Bonds Foundry, North Road

Decision – Members requested further information on this proposed application. Clerk to contact the Planning Officer and inform Members when further details have been received.

B) Application 3/2010/0192 – Applicant Gregg's North East for a fascia sign to the front elevation of 47a (unit 1b) High Street.

Decision – Members agreed to raise no objections to the proposed development

C) Application 3/2010/0146 – Applicant Mr D Basham for a single garage to land rear of 111 Dan's Castle.

Decision – Members agreed to raise no objections to this proposed development

AGM 18/10 Accounts for payment

That approval be given for the payment of vouchers 09 to 14 in the sum of £2301.68.

AGM 19/10 Chairman's Report

No Report

AGM 20/10 Clerk's Report

Items for discussion:-

A) CDALC- Nominations for Executive Committee

Members agreed to nominate Councillor Batson for Vice President

B) DCC - Parish/Town Councillor Register of Interest forms

The Clerk to send each Councillor a copy of the form for them to complete and return to the Clerk before the next Town Council meeting.

C) Application for funding from the N-Power Community Fund towards a Go-Karting trip on Friday 21st May 2010 by the Tow Law and Sunnyside Youth Project.

Members agreed to donate £250 towards this Project (Cheque to be made payable to Tow Law Community Association).

Items for Information:-

- D) The Three Towns AAP small grants fund
- E) CDALC – Titles of Dignitary (new powers for Local Councils to confer honorary titles)
- F) CDALC – E-bulletin details; updates for Local Councils
- G) Arriva – operational performance data
- H) LiNK County Durham Newsletter; April 2010; Issue No. 6
- I) Clerk & Councils Direct magazine; May 2010; Issue No. 69
- J) DRCC Newsletter; Spring/Summer 2010
- K) Durham Association News; April 2010; Issue No. 29
- L) Northern Rock Foundation – Newsletter; No. 20/2010
- M) County Durham Environmental Trust – Newsletter; March 2010; Issue No. 17
- N) Tow Law Youth Project (Report by J. Mountain)
Clerk to copy the report to all Councillors

AGM 21/10 Members Reports

- Councillor Green – Flower beds on Millennium Green (Further report to the next Town Council meeting)
- Councillor Stevens – Need for additional bollards to footpaths on High St (Clerk to contact DCC)
- Councillor Hayton – Work to the inscriptions on the War Memorial (Clerk to contact DCC)
- Councillor Grogan – Bus Shelter on High Street (Clerk to contact Housing Developer)

AGM 22/10 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Tow Law Town Council will be held on Tuesday 15th June 2010 commencing at 6.30pm in the Community Centre.

The Meeting finished at 8.00pm